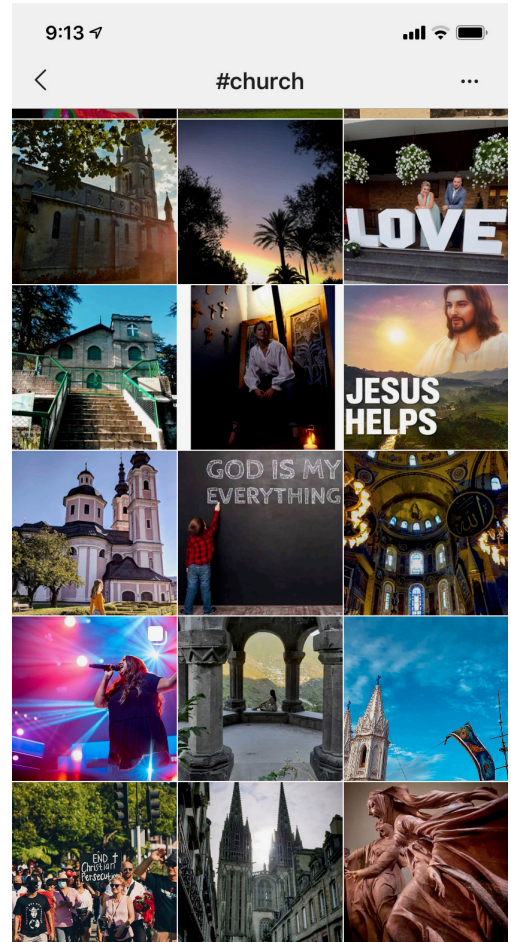


Hashtag- Week 1: Series Introduction and the Church

Sept. Memory Verse: **Romans 5:1 (ESV)** *Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

1. Hashtag.



1 Cor. 1:10 (ESV) *I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment.*

2. #Church.

1 Tim. 3:15 (ESV) *if I delay, you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, a pillar and buttress of the truth.*

1) The church is the household of God:

1 Peter 2:4-5 (ESV) ⁴ *As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, ⁵ you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.*

2) The church belongs to the Living God:

Matthew 16:18 (ESV) *And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.*

3) The church is a pillar and buttress of truth:

Ephesians 4:15-16 (ESV) ¹⁵ *Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.*

- **The pillar of truth:**
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Galatians 2:7-10 (ESV) ⁷ *On the contrary, when they saw that I had been entrusted with the gospel to the uncircumcised, just as Peter had been entrusted with the gospel to the circumcised ⁸ (for he who worked through Peter for his apostolic ministry to the circumcised worked also through me for mine to the Gentiles), ⁹ and when James and Cephas and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that was given to me, they gave the right hand of fellowship to Barnabas and me, that we should go to the Gentiles and they to the circumcised. ¹⁰ Only, they asked us to remember the poor, the very thing I was eager to do.*

• ***The buttress of truth:***

▪ **How can one be a pillar and work with other pillars to safeguard God's truth in our world today?**

1. The gospel must not be void of love, but also cannot be void of God's truth. (Love/Truth not mutually exc.)

2. I must be devoted.

Acts 2:42 (ESV) And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

The early church was devoted to three principles:

1. They were devoted to being a learning church. (Apostle's teaching)
2. They were devoted to being a loving church. (fellowship/*koinonia*: shared experience or mutual participation.)
3. They were devoted to being a worshipping church. (Breaking bread and prayers.)

3. I must be a disciple who is able and willing to bear witness to the gospel and bear the weight of God's truth, and safeguard it in this world.

2 Tim. 4:3-4 (ESV) ³ For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, ⁴ and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.

1. We must safeguard sound teaching when others will not endure it.
2. We must affirm teachers who strive to defend God's truth vs. those teaching concepts that suit sinful passions.
3. We must strive to turn people towards truth, when they want to wander from it.
4. We must devoted to teaching, fellowship, and worship.

Interpretation: *Follow up questions.*

- How do I define the truth of God?
- Do I believe that I am accountable to grow in my understanding of God's truth?
- Do I believe that I am responsible to uphold and defend God's truth?
- How do I balance God's truth and God's love in a way that presents the hope of the gospel?

Application: *Action Steps-* Take time to examine 1 Tim. 3:15 and Acts 2:42. What actions steps might you need to take to be properly equipped or appropriately devoted to God's church and the gospel?